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Teachers And Students Learn To Save Lives

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Hanna Herald — At some point in most people's lives, they will have to face an emergency situation.

An afternoon of fun at the lake may take a turn for the worse when someone slips under the water and starts drowning.

Someone, perhaps an older family member, has a heart attack.

A friend may begin choking on something and is unable to breathe.

All of these scenes are scenarios that young people today may end up facing at some time in their lives.

The worst part is that a majority of people don't know how to react in an emergency situation.

However the ACT Foundation would like all students to have the skills and knowledge to save a life.

The ACT Foundation wants to make CPR training required learning at every high school across Canada, and are bringing their program to the Prairie Land School Division.

According to Terry Siverson, the program will help both the public and the individual students.

"It's a good avenue to get more people trained in CPR," said Siverson.

"More important, it's also a life skill."

But before the high school students can be taught these skills, their teachers must learn the art of saving lives.

These skills will include the four 'R's, (risk, recognize, react and resuscitation) of CPR.

The course the teachers will be receiving will be split in two.

During the first day they will be learning level C CPR training which covers adult, child and infant CPR as well as how to deal with a victim who is choking.

"The first day is the regular course that all ambulance workers and nurses take," said Siverson.

The second day the school teachers will be taking the ACT review and will also receive instruction on how to pass along the skills they have learned.

The high school teachers received training on Monday and Tuesday from Doug Bottoms from St. John's Ambulance. Terry Siverson from Hanna EMS will also provide ongoing teacher training and Dr. Daniel Kilian is the medical director overseeing the high school program.

Currently it is expected that 140 grade 10 students from seven schools within PLRD will be participating in the program when it is launched.

For more information on the program you can contact Bob Smith of Prairie Land at 854-4481 or go to the ACT foundation website at www.actfoundation.ca.